

Thursday, June 12, 2008

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 5:00 p.m.
Five "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **H. Res. 1265–Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5749 – Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2008 (Rep. Arcuri-Rules):** The closed rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Arcuri, and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
- **H.R. 5749 – Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2008 (Rep. McDermott-Ways and Means):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Charles Rangel, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on passage of the bill.**

- **H. Res. 1257–Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 6063 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Rep. Hastings (FL)-Rules):** Debate on the rule was completed on Wednesday. Consideration of the rule will continue as follows:
 - Vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
- **H.R. 6063 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Rep. Mark Udall-Science and Technology):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Science and Technology Committee Chair Rep. Bart Gordon, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on passage of the bill.**
- **Postponed Suspension Votes (2 Bills):**
 - 1) S. 2146** - To authorize EPA to accept, as part of a settlement, diesel emission reduction Supplemental Environmental Projects (Sen. Carper - Energy and Commerce)
 - 2) H.R. 1553** Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2007 (Rep. Pryce - Energy and Commerce)

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R.5749 – EMERGENCY EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 2008 *(Rep. McDermott - Ways and Means)*

- The bipartisan bill was introduced by Representative Jim McDermott and Phil English and favorably reported by the Committee on Ways and Means on April 16.
- Upon enactment, the legislation would provide up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in every State to workers exhausting regular unemployment compensation.
- In States with higher levels of unemployment, an additional 13 weeks would be available (high unemployment is defined as a seasonally-adjusted six percent total unemployment rate or a four percent insured unemployment rate).
- The weekly benefit amount provided by the program would equal the amount received under regular unemployment compensation. (The average unemployment benefit provides \$290 a week.)
- An individual's benefit year for regular compensation must have ended on or after May 1, 2007 in order to be eligible for benefits.

- The extended benefits program would be in effect through March 2009 (any individual receiving extended benefits before the program terminates would receive their entire 13 weeks).
- All benefits would be paid out of the federal unemployment trust funds (which now have over \$35 billion in reserves).
- This structure is very similar to the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program established in 2002 in response to the last recession.
- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates this bill would provide benefits to 3.8 million unemployed workers.

H.R. 6063 – NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008 *(Rep. Udall (CO) – Science and Technology)*

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the dawn of the United States space program. NASA is the nation's primary civil space and aeronautics R&D agency, and its current civil service workforce consists of approximately 18,400 employees. NASA conducts research and development activities in a wide range of disciplines including aeronautics, astrophysics, heliophysics, planetary science, Earth science and applications, microgravity research, and long-term technology development. NASA also operates a fleet of three Space Shuttles and is assembling and operating the International Space Station (ISS). NASA also maintains a space communications network that supports both NASA missions and other federal agency requirements. NASA's current authorization expires September 30, 2008.

H.R. 6063, the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 reaffirms the basic principles that NASA is and should remain a multi-mission agency with a balanced portfolio of programs in science, aeronautics, and human space flight, including human and robotic exploration beyond low Earth orbit. In addition, the bill also emphasizes the importance of NASA leadership in Earth observations and research, aeronautics R&D to address critical national needs such as the NextGen air traffic control management system, and an exploration program strengthened by international cooperation under strong U.S. leadership.

H.R. 6063 authorizes \$20.21 billion in funding for NASA in FY2009. This includes \$19.21 for:

- Science (\$4,932,200,000)
- Aeronautics (\$853,400,000)
- Exploration (\$3,886,000,000)
- Education (\$128,300,000)
- Space Operations (\$6,074,400,000)
- Cross-Agency Support Programs (\$3,299,900,000)
- Inspector General: (\$35,500,000)

The bill also includes \$1 billion in augmented funding to accelerate the development of the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) and Ares I Crew Launch Vehicle (CLV), which will replace the Space Shuttle. The Shuttle will be retired in 2010 and the CEV/CLV are currently not expected to be completed until

2015. The \$1 billion in augmented funding will help close this gap, when the U.S. will be reliant on other countries or commercial services (if they are available) for transportation to the International Space Station.

H.R. 6063 also adds an additional Space Shuttle flight to deliver the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer to the International Space Station (ISS) and contains provisions addressing near-Earth objects (such as asteroids), commercial initiatives including commercial crew services, NASA institutional capabilities, space weather, space traffic management, innovation prizes, astronaut health care, and study of export control policies.

H.R. 6063 includes recommendations and findings from 16 hearings that the Science and Technology Committee held throughout the 110th Congress to review every major aspect of NASA's programs. The bill was approved by the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee on May 20 and the full Science and Technology Committee on June 4, both by voice vote.

Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 6063

1. Gordon (TN): Includes a provision related to coordination with the FAA on sonic boom research. It also replaces Secs. 305 and 306 with equivalent language from Secs. 903 and 905 respectively of the House-passed FAA Reauthorization, H.R. 2881. It adds suborbital reusable launch vehicles to the list of suborbital science research platforms. The amendment includes a sense of Congress on the value of NASA's EarthKam and robotics competitions for inspiring students. It also includes sense of Congress language urging NASA use entrepreneurial companies to conduct appropriate R&D and seek ways to ensure that firms that rely on fixed price proposals aren't disadvantaged. The amendment also includes NASA workforce-related provisions, including an extension of the RIF moratorium, a limit on the use of term positions in FY 2009, and a temporary continuation of coverage of health benefits. (10 minutes)

2. Rohrabacher (CA): Expresses the sense of Congress that the U.S. should seek to obtain cooperation from other nations in discovering and monitoring near-Earth asteroids. (10 minutes)

3. Wu (OR): Encourages the United States to lead confidence building measures that advance the long-term initiative for international cooperation. (10 minutes)

4. Wu (OR): Expresses the sense of Congress that NASA should not dilute, distort, suppress, or impede scientific research or the dissemination thereof. (10 minutes)

5. Lampson (TX): Exempts NASA from Section 526(a) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 if the contract does not specifically require the contractor to provide an alternative or synthetic fuel or fuel from a nonconventional source, the purpose of the contract is not to obtain an alternative or synthetic fuel or fuel from a nonconventional petroleum source, and the contract does not provide incentives for a refinery upgrade or expansion to allow a refinery to use or increase its use of fuel from a nonconventional petroleum source. (10 minutes)

6. Arcuri (NY): Amends Title IV, Section 407 to require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to examine the feasibility of contracting non-federal actors to disseminate images and multi-media records delivered from space to the public as part of NASA's participatory exploration technology plan. Additionally, the amendment would require NASA to employ a transparent bidding process to award any such contracts, pursuant to U.S. law. (10 minutes)

7. DeFazio (OR): Requires CBO to update their report from 2004 on the budgetary analysis of the NASA's Vision for the Nation's Space Exploration Program. This report is to be completed in 6 months. (10 minutes)

8. Harman (CA)/Ehlers (MI): Expresses the sense of Congress that NASA should work with other government agencies and the aerospace industry to develop and implement policies to sustain and expand the aerospace industry workforce. (10 minutes)

9. Braley (IA): Directs NASA to prioritize any existing cooperatives with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that are related to the study of tornadoes and tornado force winds with the goal of determining the nation's ability to predict tornado events. The amendment would also require NASA to examine if there are other areas where NASA can work with NOAA in the area of tornado research. (10 minutes)

10. Hodes (NH): Establishes a scholarship program in honor of Christa McAuliffe, a teacher from Concord, New Hampshire who died in the 1986 Challenger Space Shuttle disaster. The scholarship would go to women pursuing degrees in mathematics, science, and engineering. (10 minutes)

11. Yarmuth (KY): Requires NASA to respond to recommendations in recent reports of the Government Accountability Office and the National Academy of Sciences to ensure the public has access to correct and timely research and data on global warming. (10 minutes)

12. Jackson-Lee (TX): Clarifies that the NASA Outreach and Technology Assistance Program will include small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses. It would also give preference, in selection for the program, to socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and HUBZone small business concerns. (10 minutes)

Quote of the Day

"Let both sides seek to invoke the wonders of science instead of its terrors. Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease, tap the ocean depths, and encourage the arts and commerce." -John F Kennedy